

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-07 OMB-01 PRS-01 USIA-06  
SSM-03 /074 W  
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R 071100Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2210  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0595

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, EG, CZ  
SUBJECT: CONFUSION OVER CHNOUPEK STOPOVER AT CAIRO

REF CAIRO 3505

1. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS HERE WITH MYSELF AND DCM, EGYPTIAN  
AMBASSADOR CHOUCRI AND HIS POLCOUNS HAVE PROVIDED FURTHER  
DETAILS REGARDING FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK'S FEBRUARY 24  
STOPOVER AT CAIRO. THIS STOPOVER HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF CONTINUING  
CONFUSION IN PRAGUE, PARTLY BECAUSE THE CZECHOSLOVAKS HAVE GONE  
TO UNUSUAL LENGTHS TO DISCOUNT ANY KNOWLEDGE THAT IT EVER HAPPENED.  
NONE OF THE LOCAL MEDIA, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS INDICATED THAT CHNOUPEK  
TRAVELED ANYWHERE OTHER THAN SOMALIA AND THE PDRY DURING HIS LATE  
FEBRUARY JOURNEY. YET, EGYPTIANS HERE SAY HE STOPPED AT  
LEAST BRIEFLY IN SANA'A, SPENT APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS AT CAIRO  
FOR MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY, AND RETURNED HOME TO PRAGUE  
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VIA MOSCOW.

2. EGYPTIAN RI COUNS SAID THERE WERE TWO PRINCIPAL ASPECTS TO THE  
CHNOUPEK-FAHMY DISCUSSION: FIRST, IT INVOLVED STRAIGHTFORWARD  
COMPLAINTS BY FAHMY OVER RECENT CZECHOSLOVAK MEDIA ATTACKS ON  
PRESIDENT SADAT (WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT CHNOUPEK'S RESPONSE WAS BUT  
PRESUME HE WOULD HAVE TRIED TO SOFT-PEDDLE THE MATTER, IN

KEEPING WITH HIS POLICY OF PROMOTING OPTIMUM GOC RELATIONS WITH THE ENTIRE NON-COMMUNIST WORLD); AND SECONDLY, IT RELATED TO CURRENT EFFORTS BY CZECHOSLOVAK AND OTHER EAST EUROPEANS TO HELP MEND FENCES BETWEEN CAIRO AND MOSCOW. RE CZECHOSLOVAK MEDIA ATTACKS, POL COUNS NOTED THAT FAHMY HAD RECENTLY ASKED CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR SULEK, WHO HAD NOT YET PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS, HOW A SATISFACTORY PRESENTATION-OF-CREDENTIALS CEREMONY COULD BE ARRANGED, WHEN PRESIDENT SADAT IS BEING VILIFIED IN THE CZECH PRESS. FAHMY THOUGHT THE QUESTION PARTICULARLY PERTINENT, SINCE SULEK IS A FORMER DIRECTOR OF CTK PRESS AGENCY. WHEN THE AMBASSADOR ASKED AMBASSADOR CHOUKRI ABOUT THE LONG DELAY IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK'S PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS, CHOUKRI SIMPLY INDICATED THAT SUCH DELAYS WERE NOT UNCOMMON IN CAIRO. AS FOR EFFORTS BY PRAGUE TO OFFER GOOD OFFICES IN SMOOTHING OVER EGYPTIAN-SOVIET DIFFERENCES, FAHMY REPORTELY THREW COLD WATER ON THE NOTION BY ASSERTING THAT CZECHOSLOVAKS ARE ACTING "JUST LIKE THE RUSSIANS"--AND THUS CANNOT BE CONSIDERED A NEUTRAL PARTY.

3. JUST RECEIVED MARCH 7 EDITION OF PARTY DAILY RUDE PRAVO REPORTS THAT SULEK FINALLY PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT SADAT ON MARCH 5. FRENCH AMBASSADOR D'HARCOURT HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT HE UNDERSTOOD SETTling THIS MATTER WAS ONE OF CHNOUPEK'S PRIME OBJECTIVES DURING HIS CAIRO STOPOVER. THUS, CHNOUPEK CAN AT LEAST TAKE SATISFACTION FROM THIS DEVELOPMENT.

4. WE ARE INTRIGUED BY REPORTS THAT CHNOUPEK RETURNED HOME VIA MOSCOW AND WONDER WHETHER HE MIGHT HAVE ALSO MET BRIEFLY WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS, PERHAPS AT THE AIRPORT, WHILE THERE. ASIDE FROM REPORTING TO THE SOVIETS ON HIS JUST-CONCLUDED VISITS--ESPECIALLY CONFIDENTIAL

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THE SESSION WITH FAHMY--HE WOULD HAVE A GREAT DEAL TO TALK ABOUT WITH REGARD TO HIS CURRENT FOREIGN POLICY DAMAGE-LIMITING EFFORTS IN THE ONGOING STRUGGLE HERE OVER HUMAN RIGHTS. BYRNE

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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